



MANSFIELD ADVOCATES FOR

CHILDREN

MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 6, 2011

PRESENT: G. Bent (Co-Chair), J. Stoughton (Co-Chair), K. Grunwald (staff), S. Baxter (staff), A. Bladen, R. Leclerc(staff), MJ Newman, E. Soffer Roberts, S. Anderson, V. Fry, J. Goldman, P. Braithwaite, Janice Bolsteridge (guest), F. Baruzzi (staff)
REGRETS: A. Bloom, J. Suedmeyer

ITEM	DISCUSSION	OUTCOME
Call to Order	<p>Welcome and Announcements: Co-Chair G. Bent called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM. Vote on Minutes of 3/2/11</p> <p>Option 1 Renewal Application submitted 3/11/11: S. Baxter reported that we have been awarded a renewal for year 2 of the grant.</p> <p>Sandy's Assistant hiring update: no activity at this point.</p> <p>Mark Fenton Coming: K. Grunwald reported that Mark Fenton will be speaking at a conference in Mansfield on August 30, 31 and Sept. 1. MAC members are encouraged to attend.</p> <p>S. Baxter reported that there are 4 open slots in the School Readiness program as of July 1.</p> <p>S. Baxter reported that as the result of a meeting with F. Baruzzi we have been encouraged to look at offering a monthly or weekly social gathering for families of English Language Learners to provide information and support. There was also a suggestion to have a MAC member ride the Book Bus this summer to do outreach to families in the community. Trips are normally from 9-noon, and the stops are approximately 15 minutes.</p> <p>S. Baxter reported that pre-school screening is coming up. The Girl Scouts are sponsoring an anti-bullying program. There is a workshop coming up for early care workers.</p> <p>J. Higham distributed flyers for a tag sale and flea market at Southeast School on May 14 from 8-3, and invited pre-schools to come to provide information on their schools. G. Bent said that the Health Team suggested that MAC have a table to distribute information.</p>	<p>Minutes were accepted as written.</p> <p>Refer interested applicants to Sandy.</p> <p>Please refer families of eligible & 4 year olds to Sandy.</p> <p>See Sandy for flyers.</p> <p>If you are interested in covering the table please contact Sandy Gloria.</p>
Advocacy	<p>Parameters on Advocacy: S. Baxter reported that as an Advisory Committee of the Town MAC cannot take a formal position on political issues and endorse a particular point of view or position. J. Goldman asked whether or not individuals can publicly identify themselves as a member of MAC when speaking out on issues. They can, but cannot represent a position of MAC.</p>	

Data Team	<p>Report on UConn CCEA Data Team –Update: S. Baxter reported that she has met with representatives of CCEA, and the Town has made geographic data available to them through our IT department. They tend to collect a very broad scope of data and then narrow it down to specific areas of concern.</p> <p>Data request to Teams for CCEA: Asked Teams to look at data identified by Graustein and the data points that have been tied to our strategies. Teams need to look at strategies and make sure that data is being collected. J. Higham said that the Community Connectedness Team would like to meet with CCEA to assist with data analysis. J. Goldman feels that the questions need to be narrowed down. It was suggested that the Team communicate electronically about this prior to actually meeting with CCEA rep.</p>	A representative from CCEA will be invited to attend the next Community Connectedness Team Meeting.
Community Conversation	<p>Debriefing and Next Steps- April 30th is the date for Follow-Up Conversation: the goal for the follow-up is to identify specific questions for small groups to analyze and develop an action plan for. Individuals can attend even if they did not attend the first Conversation. MAC members will have the same responsibilities that they had for the first event. It is scheduled from 2-4:45, and there will not be a full meal. There may be a need for additional recorders. E. Soffer Roberts found the “probing questions” were very helpful for the moderators. S. Baxter suggested that the moderators and recorders meet to develop these questions. Younger children will be at the Town Hall and older children will be at the Community Center. J. Goldman reported that in her group much of the conversation focused on preschool and J. Stoughton reported that many individuals reacted to the notion of “mandatory” pre-school. E. Soffer Roberts stated that the notion of parental responsibility vs. the school’s responsibility for education was also discussed. G. Bent reported on other comments noted in the event evaluations. The focus of the follow-up conversation was suggested to be: 1) Transportation; (2) Communication/Information Network for Community and Schools; (3) Community Engagement/Connectedness. J. Goldman suggested that the best use of this time would be to have each group focusing on the issue of how to get information out and how to engage other community members. E. Soffer Roberts suggested inviting leaders and members of local mom’s groups.</p>	<p>Please let Sandy know if you are unable to attend and need to have someone fill in for a task.</p> <p>Moderators and recorders will meet prior to the event.</p> <p>S. Baxter will send out copies of the event evaluations.</p> <p>K. Grunwald, E. Soffer Roberts, J. Goldman and G. Bent will meet with S. Baxter next Monday at 1:15 to identify the specific focus of the event.</p>
Playground In new Downtown	<p>Update: S. Anderson reported that on April 26 she will be meeting with prospective committee members to go through the community-built process. She will not firm up a committee until after we have identified a developer to work with. On May 17 the Planning & Design committee of the Downtown Partnership will be meeting to discuss open space at the Storrs downtown. She will also be meeting with Curt Vincente to discuss plans the Parks & Rec. have for a playground at the Community Center. There are no obvious grant funding opportunities at this time, and the focus will be on private fundraising efforts. The flyer about this group was distributed at the Community Conversation and to local Mom’s group.</p>	
Adjournment/ AGENDA for Next Meeting	<p>The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM. The next meeting is <u>Wednesday, May 4, 2011, Town Hall -Council Chambers at 5:00</u> for Team meetings and 6:30 for full MAC meeting</p>	Agenda topics: please send to Sandy

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Grunwald